

Insoluble problem?



Erosion by the River Meghna in Chandpur is devouring vast tracts of land. Photo on top left is from Soladia in Haimchar upazila. Photo on bottom left is from Taskerhand area of the same upazila. Photo on right shows officials and staffers of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) frantically trying to save Chandpur Irrigation Project (CIP) by dumping blocks. — Star photo

Steps to extend digital telephone network in 83 more upazilas

KESHABPUR (Jessore), July 8: Education Minister A S H K Sadique on Thursday inaugurated a 300-line EMD (Electro Magnetic Dialing) container telephone exchange here by making a call to Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The inaugural ceremony was addressed by Minister for Home Affairs and Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim. T and T Board Chairman Khandaker Abdul Matin Chowdhury also spoke.

Speaking on the occasion,

Mohammad Nasim said all upazilas of Jessore district would be brought under the digital telephone network in phases.

In the past, telecommunications minister was made from this district, but there had been no development in telecommunications system, he said.

Nasim said the number of telephones in the country was 3.5 lakh till 1996. The present government, he said, had given two lakh new telephone connections across the country during the last four years.

The monopoly in the mobile

telephone sector has been broken, he said, adding as a result mobile telephones were now available from urban areas to rural areas.

The minister said the government had taken steps to extend digital telephone network in more 83 upazilas. Ten thousand more digital telephone lines would be given in Jessore town, he added.

Nasim said Bangladesh would join the Information Superhighway by making its telephone connections with Singapore through sub-marine cable

network under the ocean.

He said there had been attempts to oppose the Awami League for long 21 years. But the Awami League government, he said, would not like to oppose any quarters but to give reply through deeds.

"We would like to reach the light of education to all," he said.

Nasim said the confidence and expectation of the people to the government had increased due to improvement of law and order situation in the country's South-western region.

Bamboo production declining in Kushtia

Cottage industry faces setback

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 8: Production of bamboo in greater Kushtia district is declining fast due to lack of proper maintenance of bamboo-clusters and absence of planned plantation.

Many bamboo-clusters here are now decaying mainly due to lack of maintenance, creating acute scarcity of bamboo.

Farmers of the clusters are not aware of modern method of cultivation, causing gradual decline in production. Roots, which remain underground after cutting bamboo, are uprooted indiscriminately to use as firewood. Even bamboo saplings are not spared.

At least 20 tenders may sprout from an adult bamboo if it is nursed properly, agricultural experts say. But now only two or three tender plants grow in a year from an adult one.

The decline in the production has cast an adverse effect on bamboo-based cottage industry. Many people employed in the industry face acute shortage of raw materials.

Meanwhile, costs of repair and construction of houses in rural areas have shot up due to shortage of bamboo. Bamboo is the main component of constructing houses in rural Bangladesh.

The price of a piece of bamboo now ranges between Taka 90 and Taka 100 in local markets.

Our Netrakona correspondent says: The cottage industry based on cane and bamboo is on the verge of extinction due to price-hike of bamboo and cane and lack of marketing facilities.

Indiscriminate cutting of bamboo-clusters has been attributed to the shortage of bamboo, causing abnormal price-hike of bamboo.

Besides, lack of marketing facilities is also taking its toll on the industry.

Ratan Kumar Sarker of Gopalpur village here, who is employed in a factory which produces various articles from bamboo and cane, said these days people are keen to buy articles made of plastic and aluminium. As a result the cottage industry is facing setback, he added.

Death of capital is another problem the cottage industry is facing. But there is no initiative to help the industry. People engaged in the profession usually take loans from local money-lenders with exorbitant interest rate.

Our Jamalpur correspondent adds: Construction and repair of houses especially in rural areas of the district are being hampered for want of bamboo.

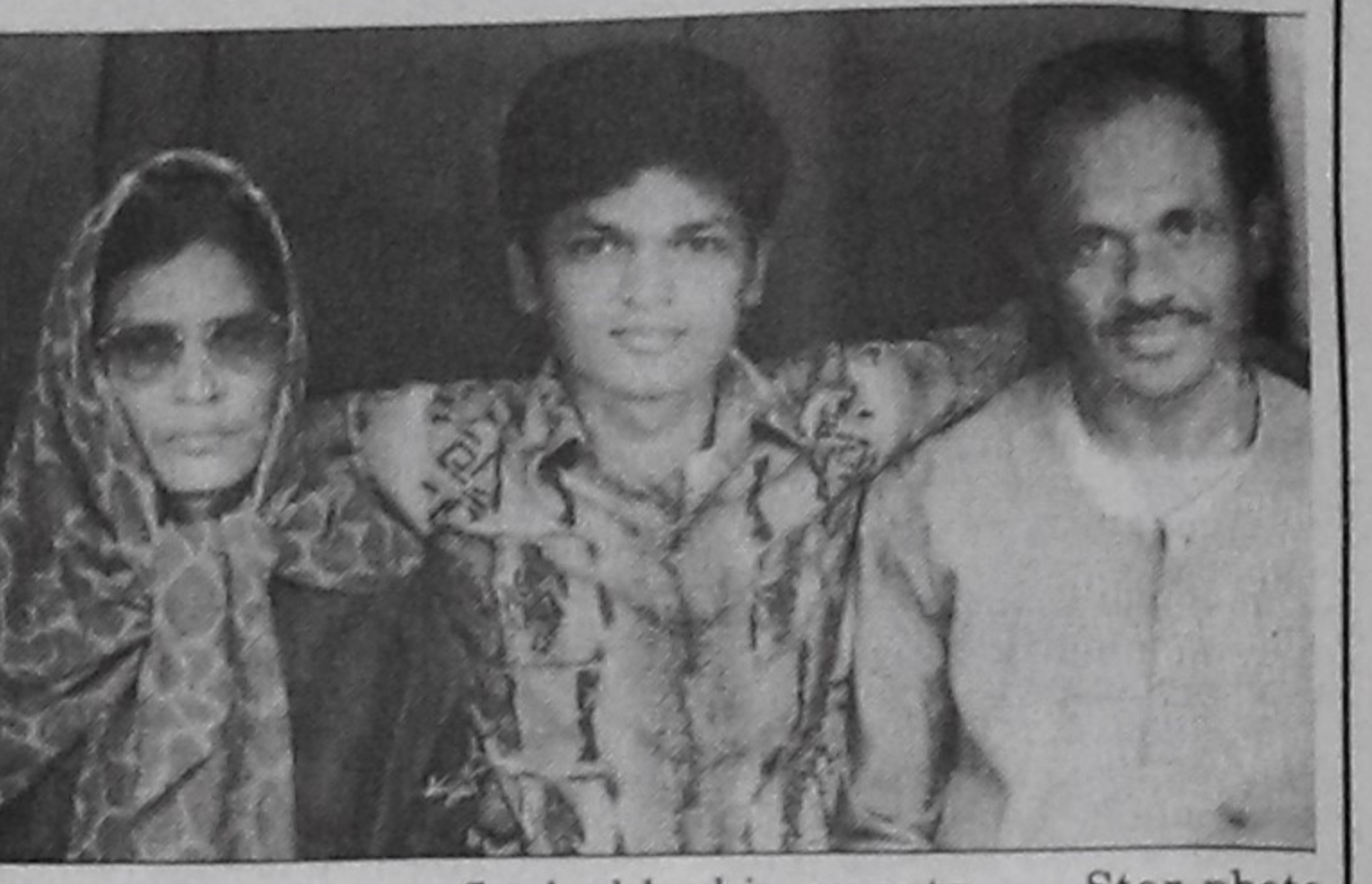
At present, price of a piece of bamboo ranges between Taka 120 and Taka 150 in local markets.

The traditional cottage industry which mainly depends on bamboo are also suffering setbacks due to shortage of bamboo.

According to an unofficial estimate, as many as 15,000 families earn living by producing and selling goods made of bamboo and cane here.

Recent storms have affected many bamboo-clusters in Sadar, Islampur, Malandah and Sarisabari upazilas.

News snaps



Farhad Iqbal is seen flanked by his parents. — Star photo

Farhad wants to be pharmacist

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 8: Md Farhad Iqbal (Palash) secured second position in the combined merit list of the SSC examination under Jessore Education Board this year from Science group of Jhenidah Cadet College.

He won 942 marks with letters in nine subjects. His father Nasir Uddin is a health assistant of Chowgacha Upazila Health Complex. He hails from Jogadishpur under the same upazila. Farhad wants to be a pharmacist in future. He likes sports and is highly spoken of his manners and special attention is book reading.



Farid Rahman flanked by his parents. — Star photo

Farid will study Computer Eng

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 8: S M Farid Rahman won the first position in the combined list in the SSC examination of Jessore Education Board from Jhenidah Cadet College this year.

He secured a total of 943 marks with nine letters in nine subjects. He is the son of Professor Atiar Rahman, is Inspector of Schools, Jessore Education Board. He hails from the local town.

Farid developed the habit of book reading right from his boyhood. He prefers the works of Zafar Iqbal, Humayun Ahmed and Sarat Chandra. He is interested in indoor games particularly table tennis and basket ball. Farid wants to build up his career as a Computer Engineer and is willing to share the technical development of the country. Farid told that attention to studies brings good result and he has learnt this lesson from his own experience.

Sowmi wants to be a doctor

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 8: Nowraj Afrin Sowmi of Doud Public School, Jessore, stood second in the combined merit list of SSC examination under Jessore Education Board this year.

She secured 942 marks with letter in eight subjects. She wants to be a doctor. Her favourite writers are Sarat Chandra, Sunil Gangopadhyay, Samaras Basu. She gets special interest in reading books. Her father Mahbubur Rahman (Khokon) of Jessore town, is a journalist and her mother Laila Rahman is the Assistant Professor of Kazi Nazrul Islam College.

Workshop on 'One House—One Farm'

COMILLA, July 8: A day-long workshop on "One House—One Farm", as per commitment of the Prime Minister, was held at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) auditorium recently, reports BSS.

A S M Mobaikul Islam, Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong presided over the inaugural session of the workshop. Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Planning, Advocate M Rahmat Ali MP, State Minister for Rural Development and Co-operatives, M Sikandar Ali, Director General, BARD, Syed Anwarul Islam, Director General, BRDB and S M Shamsul Alam, Registrar of Co-operatives addressed the inaugural session. The workshop was organised by BARD, Comilla to chalk-out programmes for the implementation of "One House-One Farm" policy of the Integrated Poverty Alleviation Programme.

Farm work progressing

THAKURGAON, July 8: Work on the "Tetulia Eggs Ltd", one of the largest private poultry farms in the country, is underway at a cost of Tk 8.47 crore, reports UNB.

The farm is being constructed on 150 acres of land at Katarpara in Tetulia upazila of Panchagarh district. Of the total money, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) is providing Tk 5.08 crore and the rest by the entrepreneur, Quazi Zahidul Islam. RAKUB Regional Manager of Panchagarh Safar Rahman said Tk 4.02 crore would be spent for building infrastructure, Tk 2.85 crore for purchasing equipment and the rest for management of the farm. The farm will have 2.80 lakh hens. The owner expects to produce 1.80 lakh eggs per day and export these to various parts of the country, including the capital, after meeting up local demand.

FEP in full swing

NARSINGDI, July 8: The Food for Education Programme is in full swing in the 22 unions, reports BSS.

Under the programme, 6148 tonnes of wheat were distributed among 32,233 students of 249 primary schools in 22 unions here from July '99 to May 2000, according to District Primary Education Department sources.

Five die of arsenic contamination

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, July 8: At least five persons died in greater Pabna district drinking water contaminated with arsenic.

Four of them are of the same family. The victims are identified as Jallil Sk, Akhter Mokhter and Lutfor Rahman of Sayedpur village under Sunjanagar upazila of Pabna district, Sonabanu, 56, of Dayal-nagar village under Bera upazila of the same district. Public Health Engineering Department with the assistance of British Geological Survey under a 3-year project of Water Studies for Arsenic Contamination began water testing since 1997.

The survey showed that waters 58 tubewells are contaminated with arsenic in Bera upazila under Pabna district.

Dhaka Community Hospital also started examining water of the area. The hospital checked 14,377 tube-wells of 167 village under Bera upazila so far. The tube-wells containing arsenic water have already been sealed marking red and the others containing pure drinking water have been marked green. People are asked to use water from green marked tube-wells.

Reports further said only in Dalorchar union some villages near the Jamuna river Darirchar, Khaer Dikhandi, Darai and Boro Durgapur are now arsenic-free villages out of 167 villages. In Ruppur union village Boro Nougou and in Masumdia union water of Kazipara village are arsenic attacked. One hundred twenty arsenic attacked patients have been identified.

Arsenic attacked patients are increasing day by day. Arsenic attacked patients are also Sirajganj sadar, Kazipur, Chowhall and Shahjadpur upazila areas, but no action is taken to half the arsenic invasion till filling of this report.

Meanwhile, UNB from Patuakhali says: Even after the three years of depositing Tk 67 lakh, people of Patuakhali are yet to get their desired tube-wells.

Local Public Health and En-

Seminar

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 8: A seminar on "US Attitude towards Islam" was held on the campus with Chairman of Political Science department Prof Moksudur Rahman in the chair recently.

RU Treasurer Prof Abul Fazal Haq attended the seminar as chief guest. Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed, a professor of Political Science, Hampton University of USA, presented the keynote paper in the seminar.

Another seminar on "Islamic Revivalism: South Asian Perspective" was held recently at Shahidullah Arts Building here.

Organised by Centre for Political Studies, Bangladesh (CPS), the seminar was presided over by its executive director Tareque M Taufiqur Rahman.

Dr Mumtaz Ahmed of Hampton University, USA, presented keynote speech.

Drive against terrorists won't be ceased: Nasim

MIGESPUR (Jhenidah), July 8: Home Minister Mohammad Nasim declared here on Wednesday that the drive against terrorists in the trouble torn south-west region will not be ceased until they are rounded up, reports UNB.

"We shall eliminate terrorism at any cost," Nasim told a public meeting at the local high school ground.

The Home Minister flew in here by Army helicopter in the wake of stray reports that activists of outlawed parties are regrouping to the anxiety of the people in the region.

The police early last year launched a vigorous campaign against the terrorists and several thousands of them surrendered in response to the amnesty declared by the government.

Digging at previous governments the Home Minister said, "what they could not do in last 21 years we have achieved in seven months."

He hastened to add: "We do not say we have achieved 100 per cent success. But we are fully committed to it. The campaign against terrorists will not cease until they are eliminated."

Cautioning the people against the opposition the Home Minister said, "Reject them in the next election. They do not attend Parliament and ventilate grievances of the people."

If they can return to power, the terrorists who had kept the people hostage for so many years and now behind the bar will be set free again, he added.

Nailing the opposition Nasim said they are boycotting

parliament without any reason. Recalling BNP rule he said Awami League had resigned from parliament, mounted movement against the government and returned to power.

"No compromise with them," asserted the Home Minister is an oblique reference to BNP and accused it of supporting the killers of Bangabandhu.

He cautioned the people of a conspiracy and said attempt to destabilise the government by fielding the terrorists was part of heinous design of the opposition.

Several hundred local opposition leaders and activists led by Selim Reza of BNP and Khalequzzaman Chowdhury Sentu of JP joined Awami League at the meeting expressing loyalty to the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Police Super Gazipur

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from interested establishments/contractors for participating in tender/auction tenders of the following groups in Gazipur District Police Office. Tenders will be received till 12.00 Noon on 20/7/2000 in the tender box kept at the Police Office and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM in presence of the tenderers present (if there is any). East set of schedule will have to be procured till 17.00 hours on 19/7/2000 on payment of Taka 400/- (non-refundable) for each group. Amount of taka as mentioned against each group should be in the form of Bank Draft from any nationalised bank and should be submitted in favour of the Police Super, Gazipur. Besides copies of valid trade licence, bank solvency, income tax, VAT deduction etc. are to be submitted with tender. Otherwise the tenders are not acceptable.

	Earnest money
1) Group 'Ka' — supply of Police Office stationery.	Taka 2,000/-
2) Group 'Kha' — supply of miscellaneous goods of Police D Store.	Taka 5,000/-
3) Group 'Ga' — supply of medicine in Police Hospital.	Taka 2000/-
4) Group 'Gha' — supply of tyre, tube, and battery for motor vehicle.	Taka 10,000
5) Group 'Umo' — stitching of police personnel.	Taka 10,000
6) Group 'Cha' — auction notice for spare parts, tyre, tube etc. of useless motor vehicles.	Taka 3,000/-

DFP-16747-4/7
G-1275

Police Super Gazipur.

The Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh
Jatiya Scout Bhaban (8th Floor)
70/1, Inner Circular Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000
Tel: 8311254, 8317237, 8311605

WANTED

Applications are invited from the deserving candidates for appointment on contract basis as a Consultant to this Institute for developing the IBB Examination Management Software. Required academic qualification and experience, terms & conditions of appointment and job-responsibilities of the incumbent are as under:

- Qualification:** (a) Masters in any discipline from a recognized University; or (b) B.Sc. Engineering in any discipline from any recognized University/Institute; or (c) B.Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering from any recognized University/Institute.
- Experience:** The candidate must possess minimum 3 (three) years' proven experience of software development in Client/Server Environment using Visual Basic (Front-End) & SQL Server (Back-End).
- Terms & conditions of appointment:** (a) The Consultant will be appointed purely on contract basis for a period of 1 (one) year; (b) the remuneration package and the mode of payment thereof will be determined through mutual negotiation between the IBB and the candidate; (c) the Consultant must complete his assigned responsibilities within 1 (one) year commencing from the date of his joining and while accomplishing his assignment, the Consultant will work in the IBB office on part time basis as per his convenience subject to the condition that he must work at least 2 (two) days per week for minimum 2 (two) hours a day; (d) the Institute reserves the right to terminate the contract of appointment of the Consultant at any time without assigning any reason; (e) the developed software (including the Source Code) shall absolutely be the property of the IBB; (f) during the period of contract, the Consultant must follow the instructions and guidelines of the Computer Advisory Committee of the IBB; and (g) the Consultant will have to provide support free of cost to the Institute in case any problem arises in future with the software developed by him.
- Responsibilities:** (a) To impart 6 (six) months training to at least one officer of the IBB on Windows NT, SQL Server and Visual basic so as to enable the trainee(s) to actively take part with the Consultant in the task of software development and acquire expertise to operate and maintain the program independently later on; (b) to develop the IBB Examination Management Software in Client/Server Environment using SQL Server and Visual Basic and (c) to set up, install and maintain the Windows NT based Network System.

Interested persons may apply in plain paper to the Secretary General, the Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh, Jatiya Scout Bhaban (8th Floor), 70/1, Inner Circular Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 latest by the 23 June, 2000. The application should accompany a complete Curriculum Vitae, attested copies of all academic and experience certificates, 2 (two) recent passport-size photographs (duly attested) of the applicant and names & addresses of two introductory referees.

NB: The candidates who applied for the aforesaid post earlier are not need to apply again.

GD-653

Secretary General

300 families left out of voter list!

BARGONA, July 8: When the government had decided to publish the draft voter list on July 18, residents of a remote coastal village seem to be left out of it as they could not yet register their names for want of forms, reports UNB.

The residents of Nidrarchar village in Sonakata union, led by UP member Kabir Akon, came to the local press club on Sunday and alleged that the names of several hundred eligible voters of 300 families in the village have not yet been enlisted as voters for lack of forms.

They said their repeated appeals to the concerned officials and enumerators fell into the deaf ear.

When contacted, the district election officer said the concerned officers would go to the village and register the names of eligible voters.

However, the eligible voters who were left out would be able to register their names in the voter list by applying to the revising authority from July 18 to August 3.

Another report adds: Deputy Minister for Food Dhirendra Dev Nath Shambhu handed a cheque of Tk 1 lakh to the local press club authority on behalf of Chief Whip Abul Hasanat

Abdullah at a simple ceremony on Sunday.

At the function, Deputy Commissioner of the district also gave a cheque of Tk 50,000 to the press club.

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Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Authorized Dealers/Re-sellers/Distributors of Computer Hardware/Accessories for the supply of the following Hardware items to the Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh:

- UPS (Off-line), 2000VA with at least 15 minutes back-up time.
- UPS (On-line), 1000VA with at least 30 minutes back-up time.
- Laser Printer: Model: 4050N or equivalent; Speed: 15/16 PPM; RAM: 4 MB; paper size: A4 size/Legal size.

The tender documents will be available up to 20/07/2000 during office hours in the office of the Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh on payment of Tk 100/- (Taka one hundred) only in cash.

GD-654

Secretary General.